Abstract

The present invention teaches a friction-type draft gear assembly including a housing having an open front and a closed rear portions. A compressible cushioning element is positioned within the rear portion with a seating arrangement abutting one end thereof adjacent the open front portion. A friction cushioning element is provided in the open front portion of the housing. A spring release mechanism is adapted for continuously urging the friction cushioning element outwardly from the compressible cushioning element thereby releasing such friction cushioning element after compression of such draft gear assembly. A compressible cushioning element includes a hydraulic cylinder having a slidable piston to define a high pressure chamber and a low pressure chamber. A means disposed within the piston are provided for increasing shock absorbing capacity of such draft gear assembly.